



# North Michigan Herald

November 15<sup>th</sup>-December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## Barryton Community Christian School Fundraiser

The CCS Pig Roast Dinner was a success. We served approximately 200 people and took in a total of \$3,314.00. Once expenses were deducted we were left with \$2,501.00 for the General Fund! This was a fantastic result. It will go a long ways toward helping us meet our budget for the year. Praise The Lord!

## Superintendent's Birthday Celebration @ Barryton

Superintendent Tom Doherty's Birthday was November 10<sup>th</sup>! His church celebrated his birthday alongside Veteran's Day. For potluck dinner the tables were decorated in Four Leaf Clovers to celebrate Pastor Tom's love of the Irish! We had birthday cake, and a lot of other really great desserts! Happy Birthday Pastor Tom! And thanks to everyone who made it special.

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# Happy Thanksgiving!

## **Interview with Superintendent Tom Doherty**

### **Is this job more than you expected?**

“No. The job is all that I hoped for and more.”

### **How is it more than you hoped for?**

“There are a lot of opportunities with the vision that we have, to get involved with helping churches get healthy, planting new churches, and connecting with the lives of people who are building the kingdom of God. And that is what I love to do!”

### **Is it taking up more energy than you expected?**

“My investment of time is considerably more than sixteen hours a week; it’s more like 30 plus hours. When there are critical issues it can balloon to 40 or 50 hours a week. The time is not the only factor. The weight of the situations that you are involved with can be taxing as well. When we are working through churches that have pastors that leave and take 2/3 of the congregation with them, or working with people whose lives are broken by sin there is a heavy emotional investment.”

### **What do you like most about being superintendent?**

“First, I love the opportunity to express the vision that God has laid on my heart and work with people to see it accomplished. The vision quite simply is to enhance the connections throughout the conference; to provide leadership development opportunities to local leaders and pastors; to vitalize all of our churches, and to start a church planting movement in Michigan. To that end working with people and seeing those things start to be accomplished, and to see God being given the glory, is exciting.

We have met with some of our churches who have requested a meeting with the vitalization team and we have already heard of improvements of attendance and finances from some of these churches. Our church plant in Mecosta has grown to an attendance of 44 last Sunday, in the mid-teens on Wednesday night. In addition they have seen spiritual breakthroughs in some of the new families they have brought in. A couple that have been living together for the last 15 years has asked Pastor Howard to marry them. They have significant connections with young people in the community. The community has put together a fundraiser in which they have named the Mecosta Free Methodist Church as the place that they want to give the money. The church is finding families in the community who are hurting, to bless them in the name of Jesus. These are just a couple of examples of what God is doing as we follow His vision for the conference.”

### **Does the success that we’ve had so far seem to be energizing the vision, and creating a momentum toward more church plants?**

“Good question! It is energizing the superintendent, and I am looking for more partners all over the conference that would like to be involved in church planting! While the denomination is encouraging us to plant in large cities, and I want to do that, it seems for us in North Michigan that we have an abundance of smaller towns with individual personalities and needs; which need free Methodist churches in them.”





# Give Thanks!

## Interview Cont'd

### **What unexpected joys have you experienced?**

“A part of what God laid on my heart before I became superintendent was to look to the fringes, because he was calling people back into the mainstream of ministry. And there have been a number of pastors and lay people who I have connected with and God has vitalized. They have a joy for ministry once again. And that . . . that is just exciting to me.” (smiles)

### **What unexpected strains have you experienced?**

“Probably the part of the job that I was most unfamiliar with has to do with all of the denominational demands on the superintendent. The superintendent represents the conference to the denomination and there are several meetings that you have an opportunity to be apart of, but the superintendent also has to have a level of expertise in the areas of pension, insurance, workman’s comp and a whole host of areas that people have questions about. Although I can delegate a lot of this, I still need to have sufficient understanding of the issues to know who to delegate them to.”

### **How has your vision changed or come more into focus since becoming superintendent?**

“Early on we boiled down the ten page vision that I gave during my interview process to one paragraph.”

Vision: “Based on the foundation of forgiveness and connectionalism; the North Michigan Conference is committed to **Developing** pastors and church leadership, **Vitalizing** every church and beginning a church **Planting** movement in Michigan.”

“The only thing that has changed in my mind is the size of what God wants to accomplish. Initially, I said if we could get back to 52 churches, which was the size of the conference when I first entered the conference as a lay person, then I would feel like we got done what we needed to do. Now, I can legitimately see our conference doubly in size, but more important than that, I see a conference full of healthy and vital churches! This kind of vision only God can bring about, but it will take our full cooperation.”

### **Is there anything that you just wanted to add?**

“I am more hopeful about the growth and health of the conference a year and a half into the job then I was when I started. I am very thankful for the opportunity to be superintendent and . . . I will do all within my ability to live up to the trust given me. . . .”

\*If you have a question for the Superintendent that you would like to see answered in the Herald, please send it to us.\*

# Women's Ministry International

## Women's Ministry International

A global women's partnership –  
inspiring, discipling, educating and uplifting in Christ!



### Thank Offering Giving! REACHING PEOPLE TO CHANGE OUR WORLD!

Women's Ministries International offers this Giving Guide for 2013, focusing on "Europe Alive!" Make this a family affair and involve others in learning interesting facts. This can be a praise and prayer guide to lead you in giving cheer fully in response to blessings we enjoy. Amounts listed are only suggestions. All donations will go to the 2013 WMI Special Missions Projects. Make the check payable to

Women's Ministries International and send to  
Women's Ministries International  
770 N. High School Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46214

### Contact Info:

(800) 342-5531

wmi@fmcusa.org

### A couple of WMI's Projects:

#### Website Development – Kenya

SEED directors Rose and David Brewer are working with a livelihood group in the Kibera slums of Nairobi (Faraja Widows). With current technology, an effective web site could market their projects on the internet, thus increasing their orders greatly. Widows can earn a sustainable living, build a pricing model and maintain hosting. Web hosting for a year is \$20 per month. \$1,000

If you would like to order

something from the Faraja Widows you can currently do so through [seedlivelihood.org/](http://seedlivelihood.org/) which offers products from many different livelihood groups. SEED's 2013 Christmas Catalog is out! Go to their website and find unique handcrafted gifts for your loved ones. You'll be giving a great gift and supporting at risk women around the world.



**Girls' Home** – Columbia, South America – Support for the Girls' Home in Bogota is vitally important. These young women have psychological, spiritual, emotional, educational and basic physical needs that are being met through this fund. \$1,000

## Happy Thanksgiving!

Psalm 107:29-32 - He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet; So He guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people, And praise Him at the seat of the elders.



# Giving Guide

**Giving Guide for the remainder of November:**  
(If you would like the full guide you can download it from [fmwmi.com](http://fmwmi.com))

**November 15:**  
In Europe, broken people are finding that their lives can be restored and they can have meaning and purpose. Give \$.10 for every year that you have known Jesus as your Savior.

**November 16:**  
The website Europe-Alive.org is where Kingdom work is being promoted and the reason they are using the slogan, "Europe Alive!" Give \$2.00 if you have not visited Europe-Alive.org.

**November 17:**  
In Europe, young men and women are sensing God's call into ministry and are responding. Give \$2.00 if you have ever sensed God's call on your life.

**November 18:**  
The church in Cergy, France is primarily composed of Haitian immigrants; many were members of the FMC in Haiti before coming to France. They desire to find ways to reach more Haitians and African immigrants in the area. Give \$1.00 if your church reaches out to more than one ethnic group.

**November 19:**  
The FMC in Portugal has three ordained pastors and seven ministerial candidates. Give \$1.00 for each pastor on the staff in your church.

**November 20:**  
The three congregations in Portugal are known for their excellent music ministry and the School of Leaders. Give \$.50 for each member of your local church's worship team and praise God for the team's ministry.

**(cont'd on page 6)**

## Give Thanks!

Psalm 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.

**November 21:**

At an after-school program, Kali Papanagis works with Streetlights, a mentoring program with 14 and 15 year olds from an underprivileged area in Athens, Greece. Give \$1.00 and thank God for second generation missionaries.

**November 22:**

The work in the Ukraine is being led by four lay leaders. Give \$2.00 for each pastor at your church.

**November 23:**

Free Methodist World Missions also has a vision for every missionary to be supported “financially, emotionally and spiritually.” Give \$2.00; write to and pray for missionaries.

**November 24:**

Josh and Susy Fajardo are asking for prayer for the Olive Branch Christian Fellowship to establish a ministry center to accommodate retirees. Give \$2.00 if you are retired.

**November 25:**

The Thessaloniki Balkan Church includes members from Greece, Bulgaria, Albania and Africa and encompasses various language groups. Give \$.50 for every country you know of that is represented in your local church congregation.

**November 26:**

Praise God the insurance company will cover part of the expenses caused by a recent break-in at the Budapest Ministry Center. Give \$2.00 for the insurance that covers your church property.

**November 27:**

Chance and Dee Dee Galloway are involved with teen evangelism events in Bulgaria. Give \$.10 for every teen in your church.

**November 28:**

Many European congregations meet in rented spaces, such as warehouses, storefronts, etc. Give \$1.00 if your congregation also worships in a building not designed to be a church.

**November 29:**

Josef Sykora is involved in the theological education for Free Methodist ministerial candidates and lay leaders in Slovakia. Give \$2.00 if you’ve had education beyond high school

**November 30:**

European couples are discovering that faith in Christ makes a difference in their marriage. Give \$3.00 if you have found that to be true in your marriage.





# Connecting the Conference

## Trunk or Treat 2013

On Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, several members from the Big Rapids Free Methodist Church loaded up the trunks of their cars with boxes of candy and headed to downtown Big Rapids to participate in the annual Trunk or Treat. For the past few years, the Big Rapids locals have put on this event in order to create a new, safe and public way to Trick-or-Treat during the afternoon. Kids of all ages and their parents can come dressed in their costumes and Trick-or-Treat anyone with candy and a car trunk.

Pastor Scott Gibbons, Charity Gibbons, Micah Gibbons, Tina Sova, John Carr, Derek Carr, Jennifer Corrie, and Jacob Brandal all participated in this event, and had a ton of fun doing so.

*"I think this event went well on two levels," Says Pastor Scott Gibbons, "We had enough candy to pass out, and we had a huge connection to the community. I also think we had one of the biggest church groups there."*

So far, the Big Rapids Free Methodist Church is also planning to participate in next year's Trunk or Treat.

*"I'm sure next year will be just as fun as this year's was," says Jacob Brandal, "I will definitely go again."*

-Jennifer Corrie



**Mecosta Church Plant:**  
The Mecosta Church Plant continues to grow! This last Sunday they had 44 attend morning service!

## Connecting through Social Media

### Zeeland Free-October 28

"What a great Sunday! 6 new members, a renewed hope for the future and the very presence of the Holy Spirit! Priceless! Hang on folks, the journey is going to be awesome!"

### Stanwood FMC/The Woods Church-October 31st

"922 braved the weather and came out for Trunk or Treat. Thank you to all the volunteers who pitched in to make this event run so smoothly. It's wonderful to see our church working together so well to serve our community."

### Cedar Springs/The Springs FMC-October 31st

Trunk or Treat

"... what a fantastic night! We met so many new people. We had fun serving and our guests had fun gathering treats! The place was PACKED! We are guesstimating 2000 people came thru!"

### Mount Pleasant/Central Michigan Free Methodist Church-October 31st

"Thanks to all that attended and helped at our annual Fall Party last Saturday. We all had lots of fun on the hay ride, corn maze and the auction! We are thrilled to announce that our grand total raised for missions that evening was: \$858.00. Special thanks to Roger and Karen Brookens for once again being the host and hostess. And to Stan and Sharon Miller for providing the soup and stew. It was decided that this was the 34th or 35th year of the Fall Party! Congratulations to all that won their bid on the auction of baked goods!"



## North Michigan Conference

### Websites & Facebook

**NMC:** <http://www.northmichiganconference.blogspot.com/> & [North Michigan Free Methodists](#)

**Manton Christian Camp:** <http://www.mantonchristiancamp.org/> & [Manton Christian Camp](#)

**Barryton:** <http://bfmlighthouse.org/> & [The Lighthouse FMC](#)

**Big Rapids:** <http://www.brfmc.org/> & [Big Rapids Free Methodist Church](#)

**Boyne City:** [Boyne City Free Methodist Church](#)

**Cedar Springs:** <http://thespringschurch.info/> & [The Springs Church](#)

**Evart:** <http://www.evartfreemethodistchurch.com/>

**Hastings:** <http://hastingsfreemethodist.com/> (\*Note Change\*)

**Ludington:** <http://www.harborlightfellowship.org/>

**Mt. Pleasant:** <http://www.cmfmcc.com/> & [Central Michigan Free Methodist Church](#)

**Muskegon:** [Muskegon First Free Methodist Church](#)

**Sault Ste. Marie:** <http://djw777.wix.com/saultfmc>

**South Evart:** <http://www.secfmc.org/> & [South Evart Free Methodist Church](#)

**Stanwood:** <http://www.thewoodsfmc.com/> & [The Woods Church](#)

**Zeeland:** <http://zeeland.freemethodistchurch.org/wordpress/> & [Zeeland Free](#)

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6012 S. Mission Road

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

989-772-2414

E-mail: [NorthMIConference@gmail.com](mailto:NorthMIConference@gmail.com)

